

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas at the heart of the Oslo peace process lies the basic, irrevocable commitment made by Palestinian Chairman Yasir Arafat that, in his words, “all outstanding issues relating to permanent status will be resolved through negotiations”;

Whereas resolving the political status of the territory controlled by the Palestinian Authority while ensuring Israel’s security is one of the central issues of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

Whereas a declaration of statehood by the Palestinians outside the framework of negotiations would, therefore, constitute a most fundamental violation of the Oslo process;

Whereas Yasir Arafat and other Palestinian leaders have repeatedly threatened to declare unilaterally the establishment of a Palestinian state;

Whereas the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state would introduce a dramatically destabilizing element into the Middle East, risking Israeli countermeasures, a quick descent into violence, and an end to the entire peace process; and

Whereas in light of continuing statements by Palestinian leaders, United States opposition to any unilateral Pal-

estinian declaration of statehood should be made clear and unambiguous: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) the final political status of the territory con-
4 trolled by the Palestinian Authority can only be de-
5 termined through negotiations and agreement be-
6 tween Israel and the Palestinian Authority;

7 (2) any attempt to establish Palestinian state-
8 hood outside the negotiating process will invoke the
9 strongest congressional opposition; and

10 (3) the President should unequivocally assert
11 United States opposition to the unilateral declara-
12 tion of a Palestinian State, making clear that such
13 a declaration would be a grievous violation of the
14 Oslo accords and that a declared state would not be
15 recognized by the United States.

Passed the Senate March 11, 1999.

Attest:

Secretary.

106TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

S. CON. RES. 5

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Expressing congressional opposition to the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state and urging the President to assert clearly United States opposition to such a unilateral declaration of statehood.